

Try file

MAY 1945

3 May 1945

Hand for 2-2a-285
Needs interrogations -
on a number of points
If Chos is in Venice he should
be informed to make
all possible use
of it - in
Tridete -

TO: Saint Rome

From: Saint Venice

Subject: Antonio MARCEGLIA - Mission

(1) On 8 March Subject was escorted to the front lines from Viareggio but due to enemy action at the front, they turned back.

(2) On 9 March Subject and a partisan escort of 8 men were taken to the town of Forno where they contacted Don Pietro. Subject was given a partisan named BEPPINO and a letter addressed to the CLN chief in Carrara. Upon arriving in Carrara the CLN chief promised to give Subject a local Carrara identity card and an authorized travel permit as far as Parma.

(3) The evening of 9 March Subject billeted at the Albergo Garibaldi in Carrara. The morning of March 10 a body of 40 German SS men raided the hotel arresting Subject and a group of 32 men living at the hotel, including the proprietor of the establishment. It appeared that among the residents at the hotel were three German Army soldier deserters. One of these men was an informant of the German SS. The German SS therefore deduced that the hotel was a partisan headquarters and a temporary billet for deserters from where they were to be subsequently dispatched into AOT.

(4) All the prisoners were taken to an SS command located in a former schoolhouse in the nearby town of Fosso. When it came to Subject's turn to be interrogated he stated he had come from La Spezia to Carrara to purchase food articles; that he was engaged as a clerk in the Commune of La Spezia; that he augmented his meager earnings by purchasing food in Carrara and selling at a profit in La Spezia. He accounted for the sum of 20,000 lire in his possession (given to him for the mission) by saying that it represented various shares in this food purchasing mission.

(5) On March 10 Subject and eight of the other prisoners were taken to the Feldgendarmerie in the town of Aulla. ~~During~~ During his stay here he befriended a female prisoner from La Spezia from whom he obtained the name of a man in charge of an office at the Commune in La Spezia. On March 16 when Subject was given his first interrogation at Aulla he furnished the name of this La Spezia official to prove his false claim that he worked in La Spezia.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

(2)(A) Privacy ☐

(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☐

(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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DOCUMENT NO.

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(6) On March 17 Subject and three other prisoners of the original group were transferred to the German SS jail in La Spezia. Here he met a former acquaintance, one Capt. Di Vascello, also a prisoner, from whom he learned that one (Ten) Di Vascello ROSSETTO was the Commandant of the Xth Flottilla Mas in La Spezia and with whom he had studied several years ago. Subject addressed a message to ROSSETTO that he wished to contact Prince BORGHESE, and gave this note to a woman visiting an inmate at the jail. The following day ROSSETTO called at the La Spezia jail but his request to speak to Subject was refused and he was advised that Subject was being held at the disposition of the German SS for further interrogation.

(7) On March 24 Subject was transferred to a private villa on the outskirts of town where the SS maintained another command. That evening he was taken by two Sonderfuehrer to the SS Command in Genoa and placed in a guarded room on the fourth floor.

(8) On March 25 he was ~~taken~~ interrogated by Tenente MICHELSEN and Sonderfuehrer BALLOG (ex official of the Italian Navy at Trieste). They started a chronological interrogation of Subject beginning from December, 1941, up until the time Subject was a prisoner in India. The interrogation was to be continued the following morning.

(9) That evening however, Tenente Di Vascello UNGARELLI, and another officer, both of the Mezzi Di Assalto, Xth Flot. Mas, arrived at the Genoa German SS and took Subject to their hq on Via Aurelio Saffi in Genoa. At this time Subject learned that his release had been brought about in the following manner. After ROSSETTO's unsuccessful effort to speak to Subject, ROSSETTO telephoned Genoa and relayed Subject's message to Commandante ARILLO. ARILLO then telephoned Prince Borgehe in Milan. BORGHESE in turn contacted one of his officials who acted in the capacity of liason officer with an unidentified German SS Captain in Lonato. This German official then used his influence in securing Subject's release.

(10) When Subject arrived at the Mezzi Di Assalto HQ in Genoa, UNGARELLI wanted to know whether Subject was on a mission for the Italian Government in AOT. Subject stated that he would only discuss his business directly with Prince BORGHESE. UNGARELLI then put through a telephone call to BORGHESE in Milan.

(11) On March 28 Subject was accompanied to Milan and given an audience with BORGHESE. At this time he explained the nature of his mission, but stating that he came as a representative of the Italian Navy Ministry in Rome. BORGHESE stated that he was also seeking to keep the Yugoslav troops and the Communistic influence from Trieste and the entire Venezia Giulia area. A few weeks before BORGHESE had sent 5 battalions to that province. However the populace of that area were antagonistic towards BORGHESE's troops and the German Army Command compelled BORGHESE to withdraw the battalions. They were replaced by 13,000 Chetniks fighting for the Germans.

(12) BORGHESE now turned to MUSSOLINI for assistance, emphasizing the importance of keeping General Tito's men from occupying Venezia Giulia, and if the occupation of that zone appeared imminent it should be executed by Anglo-American troops. Only in that manner could Italy prevent post-war occupation of that province by Communists. MUSSOLINI promised his cooperation but his affairs of state were obviously so confused that he never took any action.

(13) On March 29 Subject and BORGHESE went to the Lonato HQ of the Xth Flottilla Mas. Subject suggested another alternative since BORGHESE could not possibly develop a military defense of Venezia Giulia. He offered the proposition of ~~organizing~~ organizing a system whereby all available manpower in Trieste could be utilized as a last guard defense. Subject wished to pool the CCRR, Guardia Civica, Auxiliary Home Guard troops and the Todt personnel. BORGHESE was receptive to this plan and agreed to discuss it further with Subject.

(14) BORGHESE claimed that he had also initiated a propaganda campaign to offset the strong Communistic influence in Trieste. BORGHESE had distributed more than 2,000,000 pamphlets throughout that area and had sent numerous men to infiltrate and penetrate the Communists to learn what propaganda measures were being taken by them. BORGHESE further advised Subject that General Tito had even succeeded in spreading his propaganda in German supervised newspapers.

(15) Subject also suggested soliciting aid from Marshal ~~Graziani~~ Graziani but BORGHESE advised him that GRAZIANI was powerless and a tool of the Germans. With respect to securing the services of the San Marco Battalion BORGHESE said it was impossible as that battalion was engaged in the defense of the Liguria area.

(16) Subject learned from BORGHESE that Capt. BUTTAZONI was at the front and therefore Subject could not brief BUTTAZONI with respect to the other phase of his mission.

(17) On March 30 Subject went to Venice for a few day holiday, promising BORGHESE that he would confer with him again after one week, in Milan. However upon Subject's arrival in Venice he was immediately stricken with an attack of influenza and was bed ridden for seven days.

(18) It was now past the appointed meeting with BORGHESE in Milan and Subject despaired that he could locate BORGHESE in Milan. Subject therefore decided to go to Cormos then Trieste to make a first hand survey of the possible civilian defense that could be recruited for defense against the Communists.

Clarify - 11
Detail
(19) On April 10 he returned to Venice discouraged by the observations he had made in Trieste. That day he ~~xxx~~ learned that BORGHESE was living at the Albergo Danielle and he immediately contacted him. BORGHESE claimed that the Allied offensive in Italy had pushed off; that his troops were fighting on the 8th Army Front at Lake Comacchio; that

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he could not transfer his men to Venezia Giulia; that he had provided for General ESPOSITO (Commanding Officer of Distretto Militare of Trieste) to defend Trieste. ESPOSITO had under his command besides the local military force, the CCRR, Guardia Civica, Auxiliary Home Guard, ~~and the~~ TODT, and the Guardia Finanza. BORGHESE stated he would shortly see MUSSOLINI to secure his backing for the defense of Trieste.

(20) On April 13 Tenente di Vascello WOLK, who was residing in Venice, heard that Subject was living in the city and contacted him. Subject requested transportation to Milan. WOLK advised him that he was going to the Xth Flotilla MAS Gamma HQ at Valdagno and that Subject could possibly secure an automobile there.

(21) On April 15 Subject and WOLK drove to Valdagno. Here Subject was furnished a driver and an automobile. Also travelling with the party were four gamma swimmers, one of whom was named SPERBER. The Gamma swimmers were ~~in~~ scheduled to go to Genoa where they were to remain after the liberation and commence acts of sabotage in the harbor. The party of six men arrived in Milan on April 16. (The Gamma swimmers continued on towards Genoa. However that afternoon they returned to Milan and told Subject that they had never arrived in Genoa and that they had abandoned all intentions of carrying out the mission. They further stated they were returning to Valdagno. Subject has never seen these men since and is quite positive that they will never go on any missions.)

(22) Subject went to the Alfa Romeo plant in Milan to look for Signor GIORGIS, brother of SCI Z agent. Subject learned that two months before GIORGIS had been jailed as an anti-fascist and was still in prison. Subject now spoke to another engineer named GOBBATO. He wrote out a report of his activities and the results of his mission and consigned it to GOBBATO to be given to our agent when seen, for eventual delivery to Saint Rome.

(23*) On ~~April~~ ²³ April ~~21~~ Subject left Milan arriving in Venice on April 27, waiting in Venice until the Allies overran the city.

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